

### **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

### **LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (Withdrawn) A tufted backing of synthetic fibers or filaments interwoven in a three-dimensional structure, comprising only fibers or filaments having a titer of 1 to 15 dtex, wherein the tufted backing has: a mass per unit area of 70 to 110 g/m<sup>2</sup>, a density of 0.18 to 0.28 g/cm<sup>3</sup> and a 5% modulus value in the machine direction >60 N/5 cm, but at least 0.6 N/gm<sup>2</sup>.
2. (Withdrawn) The tufted backing according to Claim 1, wherein the fibers or filaments have a titer of 3 to 12 dtex, and a 5% modulus value in the machine direction of 70 to 100 N/5 cm, but at least 0.7 to 1.0 N/gm<sup>2</sup>.
3. (Withdrawn) The tufted backing according to Claim 1, wherein it is finished with finishing agents or surface-active substances.
4. (Withdrawn) The tufted backing according to Claim 2, wherein it is finished with finishing agents or surface-active substances.
5. (Withdrawn) The tufted backing according to Claim 1, wherein it is made only of polyethylene terephthalate.
6. (Withdrawn) The tufted backing according to Claim 2, wherein it is made only of polyethylene terephthalate.
7. (Withdrawn) The tufted backing according to Claim 3, wherein it is made only of polyethylene terephthalate.

8. (Withdrawn) The tufted backing according to Claim 1, wherein it is made only of polypropylene.
9. (Withdrawn) The tufted backing according to Claim 2, wherein it is made only of polypropylene.
10. (Withdrawn) The tufted backing according to Claim 3, wherein it is made only of polypropylene.
11. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a tufted backing from thermoplastic polymer fibers or filaments processed into a spunbonded nonwoven, comprising bonding fibers or filaments having a titer of 6 to 15 dtex by needling, bonding fibers or filaments having a titer of 1 to 5 dtex by using one of water jets ~~[[or]]~~ and a combination of water jets and needling, and stretching the bonded fibers or filaments by up to 30% in the longitudinal direction, followed by drying and thermosetting.
12. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 11, wherein ~~oil or another~~ a finishing agent is added to the fibers or filaments to improve mobility.
13. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 11, wherein the stretching is performed one of between individual needling stages ~~[[or]]~~ and after conclusion of the needling operation.
14. (Original) The method according to Claim 11, wherein after thermosetting, an additional treatment is performed with a pair of heated rollers.
15. (Original) The method according to Claim 13, wherein after thermosetting, an additional treatment is performed with a pair of heated rollers.

16. (Original) The method according to Claim 14, wherein surfaces of the rollers have an irregular structure having a surface roughness of 40 to 100  $\mu\text{m}$ .
17. (Original) The method according to Claim 15, wherein surfaces of the rollers have an irregular structure having a surface roughness of 40 to 100  $\mu\text{m}$ .
18. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 14, wherein at least one of the rollers has an embossing, the embossing points covering a pressure area of 18% to 25% and forming one of diamond, linear [[or]] and hexagonal shapes.
19. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 15, wherein at least one of the rollers has an embossing, the embossing points covering a pressure area of 18% to 25% and forming one of diamond, linear [[or]] and hexagonal shapes.
20. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 16, wherein at least one of the rollers has an embossing, the embossing points covering a pressure area of 18% to 25% and forming one of diamond, linear [[or]] and hexagonal shapes.
21. (New) The method according to Claim 12, wherein the tufted backing has: a mass per unit area of 70 to 110  $\text{g/m}^2$ , a density of 0.18 to 0.28  $\text{g/cm}^3$  and a 5% modulus value in the machine direction  $> 60 \text{ N/5 cm}$ , but at least 0.6  $\text{N/gm}^2$ .
22. (New) The method according to Claim 21, wherein the fibers or filaments have a titer of 3 to 12 dtex, and a 5% modulus value in the machine direction of 70 to 100  $\text{N/5 cm}$ , but at least 0.7 to 1.0  $\text{N/gm}^2$ .
23. (New) The method according to Claim 11, wherein the tufted backing is made only of polyethylene terephthalate and has: a mass per unit area

of 70 to 110 g/m<sup>2</sup>, a density of 0.18 to 0.28 g/cm<sup>3</sup> and a 5% modulus value in the machine direction >60 N/5 cm, but at least 0.6 N/gm<sup>2</sup>.

24. (New) The method according to Claim 23, wherein the fibers or filaments have a titer of 3 to 12 dtex, and a 5% modulus value in the machine direction of 70 to 100 N/5 cm, but at least 0.7 to 1.0 N/gm<sup>2</sup>.
25. (New) The method according to Claim 21, wherein the tufted backing is made only of polyethylene terephthalate.
26. (New) The method according to Claim 11, wherein the tufted backing is made only of polypropylene and has: a mass per unit area of 70 to 110 g/m<sup>2</sup>, a density of 0.18 to 0.28 g/cm<sup>3</sup> and a 5% modulus value in the machine direction > 60 N/5 cm, but at least 0.6 N/gm<sup>2</sup>.
27. (New) The method according to Claim 26, wherein the fibers or filaments have a titer of 3 to 12 dtex, and a 5% modulus value in the machine direction of 70 to 100 N/5 cm, but at least 0.7 to 1.0 N/gm<sup>2</sup>.
28. (New) The method according to Claim 21, wherein the tufted backing is made only of polypropylene.
29. (New) The method according to Claim 12, wherein the finishing agent is oil.